

Government Administration & Election Committee
The Honorable Gayle Slossberg, Co-Chair
The Honorable James Field Spallone, Co-Chair

Dear Senator Gayle Slossberg and Representative James Field Spallone:

I am most concerned about HB 6375 involving one of those commissions and agencies; Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired (CDHI). This bill will double the state costs which would burden on the taxpayers because of a possibly severe lawsuit if not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

As you are aware there is a shortage of interpreters for Deaf and hard of hearing community. This is ongoing serious substantial issue. There is a major need to establish four year college for training for new interpreters although there is an existing program at Northwestern Community Ct College, now becoming in decline during the years of Governor Rowland and Governor Rell. Both former and current governors fail to notice this growing crisis among deaf and hard of hearing CT community. A majority of deaf and hard of hearing CT students from K to college ages is attending the public school system where there is a sorry state of support services including monitoring system.

In fact, there is another troubling situation like lack of availability interpreters. However, some schools, hospitals, employers, agencies, state courts, businesses and nonprofit organizations are desperate to search for "qualified" interpreter. In a sad reality, some Board of Education Districts had persuaded some deaf and hard of hearing students to forgo their educational goals but accept with whatever the schools could offer with the limitations to the best for time being.

I hope you will seriously consider the impact HB 6375 would have on our economy. Please withdraw your support of H.B. 6375.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

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